



the interior design student
make a difference
project

October 23 - 24, 2009

participate in
2009!

Can interior design students use creativity to make daily existence better for human beings, other living things or the earth?

Interior design student Mohn Anaz noticed that visitors entering the interior design department offices at his school had no logical place to put their dripping umbrellas on frequent rainy days. He fashioned a simple holder that would allow the umbrellas to dry in their extended position, and in the process created a changing sculptural piece that enhanced the foyer.

Student John Ainsley discovered that codes books used by students in the law library rarely stayed open to the desired page. Using discarded cardboard and balsa wood, he fashioned several simple angled tabletop bookstands with a page prop and placed them on the study tables. Students no longer have to prop books open with heavy objects.

Maria Johns noticed that the many stray animals in her neighborhood drank out of mud puddles because they did not have access to any other clean water source. Observing that water dishes left out for these animals quickly became choked with leaf debris, she fashioned water bowls with a partial overhang that keep the water clean for a longer period of time.

The Interior Design Educator's Council Social Responsibility Network is proud to sponsor a project inspired by Bryan Bell, founder of Design Corps, a non-profit group dedicated to world betterment through design. The idea is simple, but potentially profound.

1. Have your interior design students find a real-life problem in the community (encourage them to get off campus) that could be made better through a design of some kind.
2. Have them create and install a small, meaningful design solution, either temporary or permanent.
3. The students then observe what happens when people encounter and use their environmental idea.

To keep the project small and meaningful, we recommend you introduce the project no earlier than the afternoon of Thursday, October 22nd, then give your students (either single students or teams) 36 hours to conceive and execute the project*. Have a significant part of the project occur (such as installation) on Saturday, October 24, National Make a Difference Day. To complete the project, direct your students to document the design idea with photographs within a one-page description using the template at the Make a Difference Project website located at www.idec.org/students/MakeADifference.php. After you have reviewed their work, have the students email their project by **Monday, November 2nd** to interiordesign@appstate.edu. Educators of the IDEC Social Responsibility Network will compile the ideas and will post them for all to see at the IDEC Social Justice Network website.



*Please note the students' projects must be safe and conform to local codes and other restrictions. Responsibility for student projects rests with the sponsoring institution and not IDEC or the IDEC Social Responsibility Network.



social responsibility
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Questions?

Contact the IDEC Social Responsibility Network co-chair Jeanne Mercer-Ballard at mercerja@appstate.edu.